

Recommended Courses for Special Education Majors

Effective for all course work completed by applicants in the following terms: Fall 2009, Spring 2010, Summer 2010

Please see the NIU *Undergraduate Catalog* for specific admission information.

Special Education Major: Learning Behavior Specialist I

Department of Teaching and Learning (TLRN)

(Please see the Undergraduate Catalog at <http://catalog.niu.edu> for information about the emphasis in Vision Impairments.)

TLRN: www.cedu.niu.edu/tlrn

Teacher Certification: www.niu.edu/teachers

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1. Special Education is not limited in admission; however, students must meet program requirements before taking professional courses (by the end of sophomore year). Students will be required to have a **minimum NIU GPA of 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale)** for admission to professional courses and a minimum NIU GPA of 2.75 (on a 4.00 scale) to remain in the program.
2. **Transfer students should complete as many of the following prerequisites as possible at their community college prior to transfer to NIU:**

<u>NIU Courses</u>	<u>Highland Equivalents</u>
COMD 220 Introduction to Communicative Disorders (3)	N/A
EPFE 201 Education as an Agent for Change (3) <i>or</i>	EDUC 222
IDSP 211 Educating for Cultural Sensitivity (3) <i>or</i>	N/A
ILAS 123 Cultural Pluralism in the United States (3)	N/A
<i>NOTE: ILAS 123 may not be used to meet NIU general education (IDP) requirement.</i>	
ETT 229 Computers in Education (3) or pass the ETRA Skills Competency Exam (0)	EDUC 225
Contact 815-753-9339 regarding exam.	
GEOG 202 World Regional Geography (3)	GEOG 132
HIST 260 American History to 1865 (3)	HIST 143
HIST 261 American History Since 1865 (3)	HIST 144
MATH 201 Foundations of Elementary School Mathematics (3)	MATH 164 & 174
<i>NOTE: If two courses are required, a C or better is required in the first course to meet NIU Core Comp.</i>	
POLS 100 American Government and Politics (3) <i>or</i>	POL 152
POLS 150 Democracy in America (3)	N/A
PSYC 102 Introduction to Psychology (3)	PSY 161
TLSE 240 Introduction to Special Education (3) (with a C or better)	EDUC 224
TLSE 260 Service Learning Field Experience in Special Education (1)	N/A

3. Transfer students should also send documentation of successful completion of the **Illinois Certification Testing System (ICTS) Basic Skills Test**. For more information about the ICTS, click on <http://www.icts.nesinc.com/>.
4. A **fingerprint-based criminal background check** through the Illinois State Police and Federal Bureau of Investigation using an official Criminal Background Fingerprint Check Authorization is required. This form, as well as instructions for completing and submitting the form, can be obtained from www.niu.edu/teachers.
5. Students are expected to meet all university and College of Education standards for retention. They also must meet the standards set forth in the Council for Exceptional Children Code of Ethics and Standards for Professional Practice for Special Educators.

Note: A.A.T. graduates – To be admitted to Teacher Education in Emphasis 1, Learning Behavior Specialist I, individuals who have earned the Associate of Arts in Teaching (A.A.T.) in Special Education must provide evidence of passing the Illinois Test of Basic Skills and have a minimum transfer GPA of 3.00, including grades of C or better in A.A.T. professional Special Education courses. The A.A.T. must include courses in Language Development and Introduction to Foundations of Reading. Students transferring to NIU with an A.A.T. in Special Education, who intend to pursue the Learning Behavior Specialist I program, must contact the undergraduate academic advisor no later than one year prior to admission to NIU. Failure to do so may result in a delay of registration for the initial block sequence of courses leading to the LBS I teaching certificate.